

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF

ST. AUSTELL.

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MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1922.

E. G. ANDREW, M.D.,
Medical Officer of
Health.

F. H. SMITH, LL.B.,
Solicitor,
St. Austell.

ST. AUSTELL :

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To the Chairman and Members of the
St. Austell Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Miss Roberts, and Gentlemen,

The year has been very satisfactory from a health point of view, and it has been made notable by the materialization of certain important schemes, which for many years have been urged by myself and former Medical Officers of Health. It is only a progressive Council like your own which would have seized the present economic conditions and turned them to such advantage.

When all the works now being carried out are finished a great change for the better will be realized in many parts of your District with regard to Sanitation and Water Supply.

Your Council is also to be congratulated on the completion of its Housing Scheme—the third largest in the West of England ; but the question of overcrowding is still very acute and the provisions of the New Housing Bill should be carefully considered.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

E. G. ANDREW.

*St. Austell,
May 1923.*

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ST. AUSTELL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1922.

General.

The Year 1922 will go down in history as a year of the greatest activities on the part of the Council.

Sanitation in the District has been revolutionised, but in spite of this there is much more requiring to be done, and in view of New Schemes in hand the year 1923 should see nearly every village in the District drained and provided with a supply of water.

It would be interesting at this juncture to recall to the Council's mind a report made by a previous Medical Officer in the year 1913: his summary of requirements then was as follows:

Drainage.

1. At Watering Lane Sewerage Farm
2. At St. Dennis
3. At Nanpean
4. At Roche
5. At Bugle and Stenalees
6. At St. Blazey, Par and Tywardreath
7. At Pentewan
8. At Mevagissey
9. At St. Stephens Churchtown

Water Schemes.

1. At St. Austell Rural—to increase the supply
2. At Stenalees and Carthew
3. At Roche
4. At St. Stephens Churchtown
5. At Bugle—to increase the supply
6. At Pentewan
7. At Mevagissey
8. At St. Dennis

Housing.

1. The provision of Working Class Houses throughout the District
2. The strict enforcement of the Housing Acts to remedy insanitary house property

Administrative.

1. The provision of an Isolation Hospital
2. General revision in the conduct of business
3. The provision of means of travelling for the Officers of the Council
4. Suitable Office accommodation
5. Adequate clerical assistance for the Council's Officers
6. The appointment of a woman Health Visitor.

Very little was done until 1921 when on the appointment of the new Clerk re-organisation and improvements in the administration began to be accomplished. That year also gave opportunities in other directions and as I pointed out in my last report, the Council were wise in taking advantage of the offer of the Government of Grants towards Unemployment Relief Schemes and utilizing the labour available in the District for carrying through the schemes so urgently necessary.

The work involved and carried out by your Sanitary Department has been of enormous proportions, and the manner in which Mr. Simcox and Mr. Green have carried through this enormous amount of work is very wonderful.

Mr. Green left in September to take up another appointment, and Mr. Simcox had in consequence to shoulder the whole of the Engineering work in connection with the schemes which the Council were then carrying out, in addition to preparing those to be carried out during the year 1923.

Your Council are to be congratulated on having an Officer like Mr. Simcox, who is capable of preparing and carrying out the many and intricate schemes with such varying Engineering details, and certainly goes

to prove the economy of engaging properly qualified Officers to carry out the Council's work, which is of no little importance or magnitude. The Council will remember probably with regret the large sums of money that they have had to pay in the past for outside engineering assistance, which has not in all cases proved as efficient as that now available.

The Council must have noticed, too, the great improvement which has taken place during the past two years in the Sanitary administration in the District. This is due entirely to the appointment of fully qualified Sanitary Inspectors. In spite of their hard work, however, much remains to be done as there are so many thickly populated areas in the district which require the most careful supervision and it is absolutely essential that there should be no weak spot in the Public Health or Sanitary administration of the District.

After their magnificent record the Council cannot now afford to have any work skipped, especially if they are to maintain the name they have just earned, namely, that of being the most progressive Authority in the West of England.

Area, Population and Rateable Value.

The Rural District comprises 14 Parishes covering an area of 56,333 acres, with a population according to the 1911 census of 30,422. The Registrar General estimates the population for 1922 as 31,380.

The area is in the main industrial and during the depression of the clay trade a lot of people left the district, some emigrating, others going to the big cities and towns; but now that the clay trade is flourishing again the population is increasing.

The greatest length of the District from North to South is $15\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and the extreme width is 14 miles.

Housing.

Many of the houses in which the people live in this district are in such a dilapidated state of repair that they are not really fit for people to live in: at the

same time it would be futile to start the wholesale issue of Closing Orders because there would be nowhere for the displaced people to live in. In spite of the fact that the Council have created a record in house building and have built more houses (330) than any other Rural Council in the South Western Region, the housing conditions in this district are inadequate.

The houses built by the Council have only partially alleviated the shortage of houses for the poorer classes of people, and something will have to be done very soon to make the houses in which these classes live much more habitable. In many instances houses are too far gone and rents too low to justify landlords repairing them, and the only thing is for wholesale demolition to take place and re-building carried out, giving healthier conditions for the people to live in.

It is to be hoped that the Government with their new Housing Bill will provide facilities for assisting and encouraging private builders to put up the class of cottages so necessary and thus enable the Council to do away with these bad dwellings.

The work of the Council in the future in connection with the housing problem will be no light task and will require their very serious consideration.

Only two Closing Orders were issued during the year 1922, viz., one in respect of a house at Mevagissey and one in respect of a cottage at Sandy Farm. Both of these Closing Orders were subsequently withdrawn on the owners carrying out certain repairs to the cottages.

Vital Statistics.

The Births for 1922 numbered 650, of which 333 were males and 317 were females. In 1921 the births were 683. There were 30 illegitimate births as compared with 43 in 1921. This gives a birth rate of 20·7 per thousand of the population which is lower than 1921 when the rate was 22·3. The rate for England and Wales for 1922 is given as 20·6.

There were 391 deaths in 1922 compared with 361 in 1921: this gives a death of 12·2 per thousand of the

population which is a little higher than the previous year when the rate was 11·6. The rate given for England and Wales for 1922 is 12·9.

The principal causes of death were as follows:—

1.	Heart Disease	. . . . .	62
2.	Cancer	. . . . .	40
3.	Bronchial Disease	. . . . .	37
4.	Tuberculosis (all forms)	. . . . .	35
5.	Congenital Debility and Premature Birth		25
6.	Arteria sclerosis	. . . . .	15
7.	Nephritis	. . . . .	15

One woman died in consequence of child birth, none died in consequence of sepsis.

Infant Mortality.

The number of children who died under one year of age was 42, which is the same number as in 1921. Three of these were illegitimate children. The Infant Mortality was therefore 67·7 per thousand births, the rate for 1921 being 60·6. The corresponding rate for England and Wales for 1922 was 77·0.

Congenital debility and premature births were the cause of 56 per cent. of these deaths. There were no deaths from Measles or Whooping Cough. Two children under two years died from Diarrhoea.

Venereal Diseases.

No deaths occurred in the District from Venereal Disease, and there are not many cases in the district. There is no Clinic nearer than Tuckingmill, Redruth (about 20 miles), and the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital (50 miles).

Medical practitioners often hesitate to enter on a death certificate that the death was due to syphilis or Gonorrhoea. Some other term less unpleasant is often used to denote the cause of death, but nevertheless such cause is often a sequel to Venereal disease.

Notifiable Diseases.

	Total cases Notified	Cases admitted to hospital	TOTAL DEATHS
Scarlet Fever . .	46	nil	nil
Diphtheria . .	3	„	„
Enteric . .	1	„	1
Pneumonia . .	7	„	8
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	„	nil

Tuberculosis.

Pulmonary	M 8 F 13 —	21	12	31
	21			
Non Pulmonary	M 5 F 2 —	7	1	4
	7			

Still another year has gone by and there is no Infectious Disease Hospital in the District. It is to be deplored that the Joint Hospital Board which was formed in 1920 has done nothing beyond getting plans prepared and that they did not seize the opportunity afforded to erect the Hospital as an Unemployment Relief Scheme.

The area served by this Joint Hospital Board has a population something like 35,000, and it is a very serious matter that there is no Infectious Disease Hospital available. Should any serious outbreak of Infectious Disease occur in any of the villages of the District it would be practically impossible to arrest the spread of infection in view of the present housing conditions and lack of isolation facilities. There is no accommodation in the District for dealing with Small Pox.

The Medical Practitioners in the District would help the Sanitary Department if they notified cases with the least possible delay, and they could also do much to prevent the spread of Infectious Diseases by warning

parents and others about the risk of contagion during quarantine.

Persons recovering from an Infectious Disease should not under any circumstances be allowed to mix with other people until the doctor certifies that they have completely recovered, and the instructions contained in the leaflet which is issued as soon as the Council's Sanitary Inspector hears of the case should be rigidly adhered to and backed up by the Medical Practitioner in attendance.

Doctors could do much to educate the people in exercising the utmost care and thus prevent the spread of infection, and in my opinion the precautions now taken in the district to prevent the spread of Infectious Diseases are very inadequate. It usually happens the stable door is closed after the horse has escaped, and I suggest that the necessary arrangements should now be made to prevent or at least minimise as much as possible the occurrence of any serious outbreak in the future.

The matter of tracing the history of cases which occur in the district and the precautions taken to prevent the spread of Infectious Diseases require very serious attention by the Council, and the energies of the Public Health Department should be directed to this end.

Very little effort has been made in the past to trace the history or association of cases which would have been possible had the notifications been received immediately the disease had been diagnosed. With the provision of an Isolation Hospital the investigation of all cases could be proceeded with much more rapidly and often further cases prevented.

Scarlet Fever.

The number of cases notified (46) is about the average for the last few years although in 1921, 52 were notified. 9 of the cases occurred in St. Dennis and 8 at Mount Charles. There were no deaths reported. Many of these were doubtless cases due to

insufficient precautions being taken during the convalescing period.

Diphtheria.

The cases notified only amounted to 3 as compared with 5 in 1921. Charlestown claims 1 case and Tywardreath 2 cases. No death was reported.

Typhoid Fever.

One case was notified and death resulted. It is questionable whether the case was due to Typhoid: Widal's Test was not carried out and the history rather indicated some other cause, at any rate no other cases occurred. The district is free apparently from this serious disease.

Pneumonia.

Seven cases were notified and eight deaths were reported.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

One case was reported, which made good recovery without any resulting paralysis. A case notified in 1921 died during 1922 as the result of an operation.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

The one case that was notified cleared up and no defects of the eyes resulted.

Tuberculosis.

The number of cases during the year was certainly less than 1921, (28 Pulmonary and 6 Non Pulmonary were notified), but when one thinks that 35 deaths occurred during the year (31 Pulmonary and 4 Non Pulmonary) it is a source of great regret that a district bordering on the sea in such a healthy part of the county should have 1.1 per thousand of the population dying of consumption. The present housing conditions lend themselves to the breeding of consumption and the lack of fresh air in the houses favours the prevalence of Tuberculosis.

There should be no consumption in the district and the Council should not be satisfied until their Officers, assisted by the co-operation of the Medical Practitioners of the district, have succeeded in wiping out this terrible disease.

Compared with the large cities and towns the percentage of deaths from this disease is small, but there are so many causes to assist the development of consumption in these places which should not prevail in this district.

There is no Sanatorium for Consumptive patients nearer than Didworthy, Devon, 70 miles, or Tehidy (for ex-service persons, about 27 miles). It is very difficult to get patients into Tehidy Sanatorium, but the Council have had no trouble in getting patients admitted to Didworthy, but the distance to be travelled is so very great and causes much fatigue to the patients.

During the year 13 patients have been sent to Sanatoria.

The Guardians of St. Austell Union have provided a Consumption Ward for the treatment of Poor Law Patients, and the results attained have have been eminently satisfactory.

The County Council have provided a Tuberculosis Dispensary at St. Austell: a Tuberculosis Health visitor lives on the premises and the County Tuberculosis Medical Officer is in attendance during certain days of the week.

1922.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

ANALYSIS OF THE CASES AND RESULTING DEATHS.

	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	10 years	15 years	20 years	35 years	45 years	65 and over
ENTERIC												
Notifications	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
DIPHTHERIA												
Notifications	3	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...
Deaths	nil	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
SCARLET FEVER												
Notifications	46	...	2	1	1	2	24	11	3	2	...	...
Deaths	nil	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS												
Notifications	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Deaths	nil	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TUBERCULOSIS												
(Non-Pulmonary)	7	...	...	...	...	...	5	1	...	1	...	...
Notifications	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	1	...
Deaths												
(Pulmonary)	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	13	2	1	1
Notifications	31	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	15	9	5	...
Deaths												
PNEUMONIA												
Notifications	7	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	4	...	...
Deaths	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	3

Milk and Dairies and Cowsheds.

The indifference on the part of some of the milk dealers to the cleanliness of their dairies, cowsheds and utensils and those who are attending to the cows is a cause of much anxiety. There is much to be done before we can say that the condition of the dairies and cowsheds of this district is anything to be proud of.

The Sanitary Inspectors are doing their best to educate the owners and those who are tending to the cows to exercise the greatest possible care and nothing short of a frequent inspection and the hearty co-operation of individual members of the Council, using their influence with the cowkeepers, will produce any marked result. Efforts made by the Sanitary Committee to induce the dairymen of the District to have their cows tested for tubercule baccilli were unsuccessful.

The Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act 1922 will probably have the desired result of a more close supervision being exercised over the dairies and cowsheds and the people who work in them, and the utensils used, by reason of the additional powers granted to the Council.

Disinfecting.

There is no Public Disinfector in the District and perhaps when the Joint Hospital Board get to work they may be able to provide one. The Guardians of St. Austell Union have purchased a Thresh Machine for disinfecting the clothes of tramps and it will be a great boon.

Before a public one is available it is hoped that the Guardians will allow their machine to be used for disinfecting bedding and clothes from infected houses. Much can be accomplished in this way.

All houses are disinfected after recovery of a patient from an Infectious Disease, or when required in other cases: 34 houses were disinfected during the year. This work is under the supervision of the Council's Sanitary Inspector.

Causes of Sickness.

During 1922 there was no special cause of sickness. No schools were closed. Measles were prevalent during January at Mevagissey, and the children at St. Mewan School were somewhat afflicted with Influenza colds in February.

Nursing arrangements, Hospitals and other Institutions available for the District.

Professional nursing in the home—

(a) **General.** Most of the work is done by the Nursing Association.

(b) **Infectious Diseases.** Nurses can be supplied if required by the County Council.

The Guardians subscribed £45 to the different Nursing Associations in their district during 1922.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

There is no Hospital available except the Poor Law Institution Infirmary, and difficult cases have to be sent to the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, (14 miles) and the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Plymouth (50 miles).

The Guardians of St. Austell Union subscribe to both of these Institutions.

The arrangements provided by the Guardians of the Poor Law Institution for inmates are very excellent and in view of the prevalence of illegitimacy in the district the Maternity Ward is frequently in use.

There are two Maternity and Child Welfare centres in the District, one at St. Austell and the other at St. Blazey, under the auspices of the County Council.

The Nurses of the respective Nursing Associations superintend the meetings and the local Medical Men give advice.

Midwives.

The Nursing Associations carry on a large amount of midwifery in the district. All these Associations engage duly qualified midwives: in addition there are

15 registered midwives practising in the district. The Guardians of St. Austell Union subscribed £45 to the Nursing Associations in the district during the year 1922.

Day Nurseries are not provided in the district.

School Clinics are held by the County School Medical Inspectors.

Accidents and Operations.

The St. Austell and District Cottage Hospital has accommodation for 12 beds and the Guardians subscribe annually to same while considerable use is made of the facilities provided at the Poor Law Institution Infirmary (73 beds). This is one of the finest in the County.

A small voluntary Hospital is available at Bodmin to which a certain number of cases are sent from the North of the District.

Ambulance Facilities,

There is a motor ambulance stationed at St. Austell under the supervision of the Cornwall Home Service Committee, during the year the ambulance was used for 83 patients, the mileage covered was 1,556. One infectious case was conveyed.

Infectious cases can be conveyed at the request of a Local Authority on their undertaking to pay all charges and the cost of disinfecting the ambulance.

Laboratory Work.

The Medical Officer of Health is provided with the necessary appliances for making ordinary examinations. Swabs, sputa, etc. are examined and reports issued as soon as possible.

Diphtheria anti-toxin and outfits are issued when required. No serum or vaccine other than diphtheritic was issued during 1922. Special serum and vaccine can be obtained from the County Medical Officer of Health.

During 1922 the following examinations were made:

	Positive	Negative	Total
Swabs for B Diphtheria	-	3	3
Sputum for B Tuberculosis	3	5	8
Smear for Gonococcus	1	-	1
Total Examinations			12

Water Analyses.

Eight analyses were made for various proposed water schemes: all were found satisfactory for drinking purposes.

Progress in Sanitation in the various Parishes in the District.

ST. AUSTELL RURAL.

Area in acres 12,018

Population 1911, 10,247

Rateable value 31st March, 1922. £53,180.

This Parish is the largest and most populous in the District and the houses are aggregated at Mount Charles, Slades, Tregonissey, Charlestown, Pentewan, Stenalees and Bugle. In addition to these there are many small hamlets and groups of cottages. The industry is mostly the production of China Clay.

Water Supply.

Tregonissey, Slades, Mount Charles and Charlestown are supplied by water from Carclaze, Penwithick, Trenance and Stenalees. The water is of good quality and no shortage was experienced during the summer. The condition of the service pipes from the Council's main to the private houses has been the cause of much complaint directed against the Council, but in every instance it was found that the owner's pipes required renewing. In view of the development at Slades by the building by the Council of some 78 houses a new main is required, and the Council are

submitting a scheme for this to the Ministry for approval.

For the past year the Council have been sinking a shaft at Hallaze and a large scheme for utilizing this is now maturing. The Council propose building a large reservoir at Carloggas to hold some 500,000 gallons which will ensure an ample supply to Bugle and the houses at Higher Stenalees and for Roche Road. This will also augment the Penwithick supply to Carclaze and Slades.

Although Pentewan is not such an important place from an industrial point of view as in pre-war days, owing to the decrease in shipping and the small railway, it has great possibilities as a health resort and with up-to-date sanitation there is no doubt that impetus will be given to building and further development.

A scheme is on foot for providing a water supply from Levalsa for Pentewan, and an opportunity will be taken to carry out this as an Unemployment Relief Scheme in 1923.

The Council contemplate an extension of water main to Carne Grey and Trethurgy and this scheme has also been prepared and will be carried out during the winter of 1923.

The question of water supply for Carthew and Ruddlemoor will require attention at some future date.

Drainage.

The Sewerage Farm at Mount Charles is still in use and no nuisance exists. There were some complaints during the year of obnoxious smells but it was found that these came from the slaughter house near the sewerage farm.

Slades, Mount Charles, Polkyth and Charlestown sewerage empties into the main sewer which discharges into the sea at Charlestown.

There are certain houses in the Tregonissey area which require draining, but the real menace to health

in this area is the lack of drainage of the slaughter houses. Some way of draining these must be found. The Council contemplate draining this area in 1923 and the nuisance from the slaughter houses should then be abated, as I have received numerous complaints with regard to them.

The area of Holmbush and Bethel and Sandy Hill is very insanitary. A drainage scheme must be provided before long as the state of affairs at present is a menace to public health.

During the year the Bugle and Stenalees sewerage schemes have been carried out. This was a much needed improvement and will be a great boon to the neighbourhood.

When the water supply scheme has been completed the Council will have reason to be proud of the sanitary conditions at Bugle.

A Scheme is in course of preparation for draining Pentewan by way of a sea outfall and when this scheme and the water scheme are completed Pentewan ought to grow into an ideal health resort. The Eastern end of the beach is at present polluted by the white stream that receives the whole of the crude sewage of St. Austell Urban District and in a very small degree that of the St. Austell Rural District. When these defects are removed the beach will be perfect for bathing and a children's paradise.

Sanitary Conveniences are required in various parts of the Parish (see also "Spit Beach" under St. Blazey Parish).

Housing.

The Parish now contains some excellent houses as a result of the activities on the part of the Council—residential centres have sprung up in various parts of the parish. The type of private house generally in these residential areas is very good, but there are still a number of back to back houses and decadent cottages which should be demolished and the Council should do all they can to encourage and assist the

building of more cottages which will enable the working classes to live under much more habitable conditions.

The Council have erected 110 houses in the parish, as follows:

Slades	70
Polkyth	8
Penwithick	8
Stenalees	8
Ruddlemoor	8
Rescorla	8

Scavenging.

Scavenging is carried out in the Mount Charles, Charlestown, Slades and Tregonissey, Bugle and Stenalees, and Pentewan districts. The Council's tip at Campdowns causes no nuisance.

A great advance has been made by the Council in the provision of an Incinerator at Pentewan, the first in the County. The results obtained from this have justified without doubt the expenditure of the £50 which it cost, and I would urge upon the Council the necessity of providing a similar apparatus in all thickly populated places or where refuse dumps are near the centres of population.

Truro Road and Trenance are not at present scavenged, but should receive the attention of the Council at an early date.

Slaughter Houses.

The Slaughter Houses in the parish are a great nuisance and too many in number. A public abattoir should be provided and all these slaughter houses abolished.

ST. BLAZEY.

Area in acres 1,792

Population 1911, 3,086

Rateable value 31st March, 1922, £11,764.

Many of the inhabitants of St. Blazey are employed in the railway sheds or at Par harbour. A few work

inland as clay labourers, some are market gardeners or work on farms, others travel into Fowey daily to work on the G.W.R. jetties, loading clay, etc.

The majority of the inhabitants of the parish congregate at St. Blazey, Par or St. Blazey Gate, the others are scattered in outlying cottages.

Water Supply.

St. Blazey and Tywardreath form a joint area for water supply, the water being obtained from Starrick, Innis Moor and Carbis to No. 1 Reservoir: No. 2 Reservoir is served from an Adit at Prideaux.

During the year 1921-2 the Council constructed a large reservoir holding 200,000 gallons and took up springs at Polharmon Farm which, although considerably augmenting the supply to the two parishes and proved of inestimable benefit during the summer months, still leaves the supply for the two parishes somewhat deficient.

The Council are now considering an offer by Sir Colman Rashleigh to sell them the springs near Prideaux Lawn and if these are taken over the requirements of the two parishes ought to be more adequately met.

Drainage.

The Scheme of Sewerage disposal for the parish of St. Blazey with sea outfall is a very big undertaking owing to the treacherous ground in which the tidal tank is being laid.

This town required sewerage perhaps more than any other place in the district as the condition of affairs which prevailed before the new sewer was laid was indeed terrible, crude sewerage discharged into the various leats which flow through the parish and was a great nuisance and a danger to health.

All former Medical Officers of Health have condemned the state of affairs which led to the breeding of large numbers of rats, which were a source of great annoyance and great danger. It is hoped that the

new scheme will be in working order before very long.
A Sanitary Convenience is required in the town.

Housing.

There is much to be desired in connection with the housing conditions in this parish. The slum areas should be completely got rid of and decent houses erected so that the people could live in more habitable surroundings.

The houses for the working classes are at present let at very small rentals and the conditions of the fabric are such that it would be a waste of money to patch these houses up.

The Council have erected some 88 houses in this parish, namely, 46 at Trenovissick and 42 at St. Blazey Main Road, but in spite of this there is need for more.

Scavenging.

The area is scavenged and the refuse is tipped at Tywardreath Highway, near Par Station. This is a great nuisance and is an ideal breeding place for rats and much nuisance and annoyance are caused.

The Council should consider the installation of an Incinerator for dealing with the refuse of this parish and that of Tywardreath. The need of such an apparatus is urgent.

Spit Beach.

Although this rendezvous is in the Parish of St. Austell Rural, it is always associated with St. Blazey.

It is the resort of some thousands of people during the summer and the Council must do something to provide sanitary conveniences and to have an efficient water supply there.

The Sanitary Inspectors have prepared two or three alternative schemes but up to the present they have not matured.

CREED.

Area in acres, 2,666.

Population, 1911, 239.

Rateable value 31st March, 1922, £3,589.

This parish is devoted entirely to Agriculture.

The population is scattered, and there are no villages.

The water supply to the farms is from wells and springs. The health of the parish is good, and the housing conditions are on the whole not unsatisfactory.

ST. DENNIS.

Area in acres, 3,240.

Population 1911, 2,032.

Rateable value 31st March, 1922, £17,795.

Water Supply.

A scheme has been prepared for providing an ample supply of water from the old Crown Mine Shaft. This scheme is to be carried out in the winter of 1923.

Drainage.

It is with much satisfaction that I report the completion of the drainage scheme for St. Dennis village. This much needed improvement (which has been under the consideration of the Council since 1883) will do much to improve the conditions of Public Health for the parish. The sewage is treated on Bodelva Moor in 2 sedimentation tanks and clinker beds and the effluent is ultimately discharged into a clay stream and eventually into the River Fal.

Scavenging.

The town is scavenged once a week, the refuse being tipped in an old disused pit at Carcella some distance away from the town. No nuisance arises from this tip.

Housing.

The Council have erected 42 houses in the parish, but there is still a lot of old property which should be demolished and which is beyond repair.

The Council cannot close the worst houses until shelter is available for the displaced tenants.

50 houses could be erected in this parish which would give the Council an opportunity of condemning a similar number. Being in the centre of the clay area St. Dennis is bound to grow when a public sewer and water supply are available.

ST. EWE.

Area in acres, 5,953.

Population 1911, 922.

Rateable value, £6,751.

This is the largest of the purely agricultural parishes in the district.

There are no thickly populated places, Churchtown and the parts of Sticker and Polgooth in this parish containing but few inhabitants.

The farm cottages are not by any means of the best, but the need for additional building is not as acute as in other places.

Perhaps a few cottages at Sticker are desirable so that the worst houses there (which are beyond repair) could be demolished, but otherwise there appears to be no need for any additional accommodation to be provided.

The water supply of Churchtown is about to be augmented from a source at the Rectory. The work will be commenced in 1923.

There is, of course, no scheme for sewage disposal for the parish, and the excrement is disposed of in a manner which having regard to the scattered population causes no nuisance and does not endanger public health.

GORRAN.

Area in acres, 4,961.

Population 1911, 729.

Rateable value £5,535.

The energies of the residents of this parish are devoted in part to agriculture and in part to fishing.

The houses are scattered about in places except in the cases of Gorran town and Gorran Haven which are very small villages.

There is no scavenging done and no public sewer, the small number of residents not having justified this expense.

At Gorran Haven there is a small water supply gravitating from a hill, which appears to be quite sufficient for the requirements of the village.

The conditions of the beach call for much improvement. The residents have a habit of depositing all their refuse into a shoot by the side of the beach. This practice should be discontinued and the Council should have the refuse collected by a scavenger and thus improve an otherwise delightful resort.

The houses for the most part are fairly good and there appears to be no need for additional accommodation to be provided.

If some of the decadent property could be replaced it would greatly improve the two villages.

GRAMPOUND.

Area in acres, 198.

Population 1911, 430.

Rateable value, £1,175.

Grampound, an ancient Borough, consists practically of one broad street of well built houses. There are a few outlying cottages. The inhabitants work chiefly at the tan yards, and the health of the parish is good.

The greatest need here is for Public Scavenging, and the Council would do well to get the refuse collected.

There is a public sewer, the sewage emptying into a septic tank in the Recreation Ground. This is a very primitive scheme, and an up to date system would be of great benefit. Plans were prepared in 1921, but the cost was considered prohibitive.

The Public Water supply is under the jurisdiction of the Parish Council and appears to be sufficient for the parish.

The houses in this parish are on the whole satisfactory and there appears to be no need for any additional accommodation to be provided.

MEVAGISSEY.

Area in acres, 1,381.

Population 1911, 1,849.

Rateable value, £5,409.

Mevagissey parish, apart from the town itself, is agricultural. The majority of the population is concentrated in the town, the countryside having only a few farms and hamlets. The following remarks apply to the town of Mevagissey and not to the parish as a whole.

Mevagissey faces towards the South East looking out to sea, on the landward side is surrounded by hills rising to a height of 300 feet. The houses cluster in the valley and the town sends up arms of houses to the hills. There was no town planning when Mevagissey was building. The town grew absolutely without any sort of order, and the result is that there are more houses built on each acre than is considered desirable by modernists.

The houses in the town are deficient of air space, but in spite of this and of the prevailing smell of fish the inhabitants are very healthy, only two cases of fever having been notified during the year.

Every year that goes by emphasises the need of a public sewer and a water supply for this parish and it is to be hoped that a scheme your Council now have under consideration will mature in the 1923 programme.

It is a pity that this picturesque village, which is rapidly growing as a sea-side resort, should be marred by the present insanitary conditions.

The existing method of disposing of the sewage is a great nuisance, the main sewer emptying into the inner harbour above low water mark. The new scheme

will provide for sea outfall at a considerable distance from the harbour.

Public conveniences have been erected on the Quay but they are quite inadequate. Two of the conveniences are in a very dilapidated condition.

Scavenging.

Scavenging is done by the Council but the methods of disposing of the refuse leaves much to be desired, and an Incinerator should be obtained for Mevagissey.

The Council are to be congratulated on their method of paying the scavenger a reasonable wage to include the cleaning of the streets: this is very beneficial for the public health of the town. It would be wise to consider the advisability of adopting this method in many of the other scavenging areas.

Housing.

There are a great number of back to back houses in the town having insufficient light and air space.

Were it not for the cleanliness of the inhabitants and the sea air this town would make an excellent breeding place for all sorts of diseases.

There is a considerable amount of overcrowding, and in spite of the fact that the Council have provided 10 houses more accommodation is required.

If one were to recommend the wholesale demolition of the inhabitable cottages at present existing at Mevagissey it would mean a new town entirely and the destruction of one of the most picturesque places in Cornwall.

ST. MEWAN.

Area in acres 2,645

Population in 1911, 1,327

Rateable value 31st March, 1922, £8,503.

There is more consumption in the Trewoon portion of St. Mewan than in any other parish in the district. It is very difficult to account for this beyond saying that the residents are not sufficiently careful in the isolation of each case at the start of the disease.

The Housing conditions are on the whole not bad, although there is a certain amount of property which should be demolished. The Council have erected 18 houses at Trewoon and there is no serious need for additional accommodation.

The drainage system is somewhat crude while the water supply which is obtained from three public and some private wells is not nearly sufficient for the needs of the inhabitants.

The Council very wisely decided to provide a sewerage and water supply for this village, but at the request of the Parish Council have not proceeded with the scheme.

I consider that the delaying of these schemes is a very serious matter and it is to be hoped that the Council will take the matter up again at no late date and actively commence to try and rid this village of consumption.

It would be quite an easy matter to obtain a sufficient supply of water from the St. Stephens main which is already at the parish boundary.

Trewoon badly requires scavenging. It could easily be done with the Truro Road and Trewhiddle areas in St. Austell Rural Parish.

This would also be another active step towards abating the consumption scourge.

ST. MICHAEL CARHAYES.

Area in acres 861

Population in 1911, 147

Rateable value £1,195.

The people of this little parish work mainly on farms and at the Carhayes Castle.

The health and housing conditions of the parish are good. There seems to be no need of any public drainage or water supply.

ROCHE.

Area in acres 6,471

Population in 1911, 1,829

Rateable vale £11,152

Churchtown is the largest centre of population and a small part of Bugle is in Roche Parish. Otherwise the population is scattered in outlying hamlets and farms.

The Council have carried out a very successful scheme of sewerage at Churchtown (filter beds) thus remedying the very unsatisfactory state of affairs which had been the cause of so much adverse criticism in the past.

A scheme of water supply is now urgently required and the Council propose to carry out this during the winter of 1923

At present there is only one public pump which frequently requires repairing. This is totally insufficient for the needs of the inhabitants and went dry during the summer of 1921.

I cannot conceive a more urgent requirement in the district than a water supply for Roche.

Housing in the parish is bad—there is a tremendous lot of cottage property which should be demolished.

The Council have erected 24 houses in the parish, but cheaper houses are required. The people who will have to be displaced apparently cannot afford the rent of the Council houses.

Scavenging is carried out by the Council, the refuse being tipped at Carbis. Were it not for the deficient water supply and the bad housing conditions Churchtown would be quite a nice little village.

ST. STEPHENS.

Area in acres 9,292

Population in 1911, 4,831

Rateable value £39,214.

Water Supply.

The question of St. Stephens water supply has

taken some 40 years to mature, thanks to the opposition which the Council have received from the parish.

That the Council at last resolutely carried out the scheme (still in spite of opposition) will give the parishioners a cause for much appreciation.

The people in Churchtown, Foxhole, Carpalla, Hornick, Lanjeth and Coombe will now have an unlimited supply available. Three reservoirs have been built, one at Hornick with a capacity of 100,000 gallons, another with 5,000 gallon capacity, and a reservoir and pumping station at Lanjeth with a capacity of 50,000 gallons.

Nanpean requires a public supply and the Council would be wise to acquire the Nanpean Water Works Company's undertaking and augmenting same.

The Council will have to consider the advisability of providing a public water supply to the Whitemoor portion of St. Stephens, which can be easily served from the proposed St. Dennis main. Resugga Lane End, Goonabarn and Carloggas also require a public water supply.

Sewerage.

The Council are to be congratulated on laying a public sewer with outfall works (filter beds) at Churchtown. The public health conditions in this area should now be quite satisfactory.

Foxhole-Carpalla area and Nanpean district require sewerage very badly and the Council would do well to get this area sewerage during 1923 and avail themselves of the Unemployment Grant.

Housing.

The Council have erected 20 houses at Foxhole and 8 at Stepside. More still are required, especially in the Churchtown and Nanpean areas. It is a great pity that the Council did not proceed with their proposal to erect 20 houses in Churchtown village.

There is a good deal of property in the parish which should be demolished, although there are no slums or back to back houses.

Scavenging is carried out in all villages in the parish and the refuse tipped into disused pits and shafts.

ST. SAMPSONS.

Area in acres 1,483

Population in 1911, 349

Rateable value £2,154.

The population of St. Sampsons work chiefly on farms. Some go into Fowey every day from Golant to labour on the jetties.

Golant is the only village. The people are spread all over the parish.

There is a public sewer which is sufficient for the needs of Golant and also a public water supply.

The disposal of house refuse is a cause of much complaint and the installation of a small Incinerator is required here.

Housing conditions in the parish are not bad and on the whole appear to meet the needs of the inhabitants.

TYWARDREATH.

Area in acres. 3,387.

Population 1911, 2,414.

Rateable value, £12,461.

At Tywardreath, Tywardreath Highway and Par are the chief collections of houses in this parish. The occupations of the inhabitants are like those of the inhabitants of St. Blazey.

Water Supply.

The remarks made about St. Blazey apply to this parish.

A very much needed improvement was carried out during the year by the extension of the water mains to Polmear. This will assist the development of this picturesque spot.

Drainage.

The conditions of Tywardreath and Par Green are exceedingly bad and a scheme of sewerage is urgently necessary.

The present system is extremely primitive and open to much abuse. It consists of two main drains, one for the upper and one for the lower portion of the village.

These drains are composed in part of pipes and stone culverts, which latter are very old and continually want repairing and are so expensive to maintain.

Cesspits exist which are very small and totally inadequate to deal with a place of the size of Tywardreath.

The drains converge and empty into the leat at the bottom of Tywardreath Hill where the conditions at present are appalling, especially near the Post Office, and the wonder to me is that there has not been a greater outcry from the inhabitants residing in the vicinity. One can hardly expect Par to tolerate being the receptacle of Tywardreath sewerage with equanimity. The system of closets at Tywardreath leaves much to desire, and although the better class houses have water closets, well over 50 per cent. of the houses have pail closets, and in a number of cases one closet does duty for two or more houses.

In addition, many houses have only very small gardens, which means that the land for generations has been pregnated with closet refuse.

Both Tywardreath and Par are growing places and will increase still more the nearer we approach to normal conditions. This being so, Tywardreath must have an efficient drainage scheme.

A scheme of joining the St. Blazey outfall seems the only effectual way of dealing with this matter and the Council are to be congratulated in tackling the problem with a view to carrying this scheme into effect in 1923.

Housing.

Tywardreath village is pleasantly situated on the hillside and many better class houses are to be found there. At Par Green also the dwellings are superior to those usually occupied by the working man.

The Council have erected 4 houses at Tywardreath Highway and 8 at the Borough, but still there is need for more accommodation. The accommodation required in this area is the better class houses which the railway men require.

There are enough small cottages.

Scavenging.

The remarks made with regard to St. Blazey parish apply to Tywardreath and an Incinerator for the two parishes is very necessary in order to abate the nuisance from rats.

Summary of Sanitary Work carried out in the District for the year ending 31st December, 1922.

Informal Notices issued	114
Statutory Notices issued	53
Dirty houses cleansed and repaired	7
Overcrowding abated	3
Slaughter houses inspected	14
Tents and Vans inspected	4
Workshops inspected	12
Bakehouses inspected	12
Dairies and Cowsheds inspected	8
Drains cleansed and repaired	44
Closet accommodation provided	6
Closets repaired, converted, etc.	3
Nuisance from keeping animals, etc.	2
Wells repaired, cleansed, etc.	15
Cesspools cleansed	7
Houses disinfected	34
Water Certificates granted	21
Sewers and Drains cleansed and repaired	67
Petroleum Stores inspected	40

Sewerage and sewage Disposal Schemes have been carried out and completed at St. Dennis, Bugle and Roche.

A Scheme of Water Supply with Pumping Plant and two Reservoirs has been carried out for St. Stephens, Foxhole, Carpalla and Lanjeth, and is now in working order.

(Sgd.) JOHN W. SIMCOX, M.S.I.A.,
Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

HOUSING.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (a) Total number erected by private owners | 21 |
| (b) As part of Council Housing Scheme | nil |

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

INSPECTION.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 110 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910 | 22 |
| (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 4 |
| (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | nil |

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	18
---	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning &c. Acts, 1919

- | | |
|---|----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | 22 |
|---|----|

- (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit
- | | |
|---|-----|
| (a) by owners | 18 |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | nil |

- (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close
- | | |
|--|---|
| | 4 |
|--|---|

B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied
- | | |
|--|----|
| | 14 |
|--|----|
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied
- | | |
|---|-----|
| (a) by owners | 14 |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | nil |

C—Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning &c. Act, 1909

- (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders
- | | |
|--|---|
| | 4 |
|--|---|
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made
- | | |
|--|---|
| | 4 |
|--|---|
- (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the dwelling houses having been rendered fit
- | | |
|--|---|
| | 3 |
|--|---|
- (4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made
- | | |
|--|-----|
| | nil |
|--|-----|
- (5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders
- | | |
|--|-----|
| | nil |
|--|-----|

